

Upper Shoal Creek AgNPS SALT Project Final Report

Submitted by Barry County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Barry County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Upper Shoal Creek Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment (AgNPS SALT) Project began in 1997. The project area consisted of 92,000 acres in the Upper Shoal Creek watershed in Barry County. A rapidly expanding poultry industry was cited as the primary concern in the application for the project. Improper disposal of animal waste was seen as the greatest threat to water quality in the watershed. By first identifying problem areas, the AgNPS SALT steering committee was able to develop a list of cost-share incentives and practices to be used during the lifetime of the project.

Cost-share for this project included:

- 1) Unrestricted access to soil tests and animal waste tests.
- 2) Nutrient management incentive payments.
- 3) Build stacking shed or composter.
- 4) Alternative water systems.
- 5) Fence off stream banks and gullies.
- 6) Warm season grass and reed canarygrass establishment.
- 7) Intensive grazing systems.
- 8) Well plugging.
- 9) Litter transport.
- 10) Cool-season grass establishment and/or improvement.

Ninety-five percent of the goals were reached in the project area. The goals of the project were met, in large part, because of information and education efforts. Through a combination of brochures and articles in general circulations, agricultural publications, and our own eight-page newspaper, the district was able to spread the news about the technical and cost-share practices available to landowners in the watershed. Partnering with the Upper Shoal Creek 319 project for field days, educational presentations, etc. was an excellent way to visit with farmers face to face, which lent credibility to the project.

A summary of the accomplishments follow:

	Total Complete	Percent of Goal Complete
Nutrient Management Education	2738 Landowners	105.3 %
Soil Test	15757 Tests	105 %
Riparian Corridor	3 Miles	58 %
Warm Season Grass Est.	121 Acres	8.1%
Waste Management Systems	23 Each	N/A

Planned Grazing Systems	11 Landowners	36.7 %
Well Pluggings	5 Each	50 %
Information/Education	154 Each	93%

There are various other goals that the district set to capture monitoring of the watershed. These goals were completely accomplished.

Water sampling efforts provided an opportunity to see first-hand that nutrient management education and technical assistance goals were working. Nutrient management education was one of the project's strongest successes. During the project, the district was able to reach 2,738 people in the watershed, when the original goal was 150. The information and education outreach tools also educated people on pollution prevention. Barry County SWCD is truly impressed with these results.

Although AgNPS SALT cost-share money was not fully utilized by the end of the project, landowners were still receiving the monetary aid they needed in order to protect water quality. The Elk and Upper Shoal Creek 319 projects worked side by side with the Upper Shoal Creek AgNPS SALT Project to bring the best help available to landowners in the watershed. Special projects like this work best when everyone works together to assist landowners and the environment.